

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 COME-00 RSR-01

OMB-01 IO-12 /140 W

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R 071335 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1247

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINEEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2098

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MASS, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY ON WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION AND SPECIAL-
IZATION OF DEFENSE ROLES

REF: THE HAGUE 2009

SUMMARY: ALLEGED STATEMENT IN NATO REPORT BEING PREPARED FOR
UPCOMING DPC MINISTERIAL, ACCORDING TO WHICH NATO IS REPORTEDLY
LOSING \$1 BILLION ANNUALLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF STANDARDIZATION
AND DUPLICATION OF ARMS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS, HAS ATTRACTED
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN DUTCH PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES.
VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NATO REPORT HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY NEW DUTCH GOVT IN NAC,
DPC, AND EUROGROUP, AND FOR GON' S VIEW OF APPROPRIATE EUROPEAN
RESPONSE TO KISSINGER' S APRIL 23 REMARKS ON BURDEN- SHARING.
END- SUMMARY.

1. NATO STUDY, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING STATEMENT THAT ALLIANCE IS
LOSING ONE BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY THROUGH DUPLICATION OF ARMS
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AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS, HAS BEEN PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN DUTCH PRESS (AS WELL AS IN INTERNATIONAL HEARLD TRIBUNE OF APRIL 27) AND IN STATEMENTS BY LEADING POLITICIANS HERE. ALSO PROMIN - ENTLY FEATURED HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO NATO SOURCES SAYING THAT SPECIALIZATION OF DEFENSE ROLES IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR SMALLER NATO COUNTRIES.

2. NEW FONMIN- DESIGNATE VAN DER STOEL AND DEFENSE STATE SECRE- TARY- DESIGNATE STEMERDINK HAVE CITED ABOVE STUDY AS SUPPORT FOR LABOR PARTY' S LONG- HELD VIEW THAT PRIORITY ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT RATHER THAN INCREASING LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. ALLEGED COMMENTS BY NATO SOURCES ABOUT SPECIALIZATION IN DEFENSE ROLES HAS ALSO BEEN SEIZED BY VAN DER STOEL AND STEMERDINK AS ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR LABOR PARTY' S CALL FOR REDISTRUBTION OF NATO DEFENSE ROLES. PRESS HAS SPECULATED FURTHER THAT SUCH REDISTRIB- UTION OF ROLES COULD RESULT IN ABOLITION OF, OR SHARP REDUCTION IN SIZE OF MISSIONS OF, NETHS AIR FORCE.

3. FONMIN- DESIGNATE VAN DER STOEL HAS ALREADY INDICATED (IN INTERVIEW REPORTED REFTEL AND IN APR 28 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF) THAT NEW DUTCH GOVT WILL PUSH HARD IN NAC, DPC, AND EUROGROUP FOR EARLY DISCUSSION ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN MATERIEL FIELD AMONG EUROPEANS AND ON WAYS IN WHICH ALLIED DEFENSE ROLES COULD BE REDISTRIBUTED (IN LATTER CONNECTION, IN- COMING GOVT WOULD LIKE RNLAf RELIEVED OF STRIKE/ ATTACK ROLE IN ORDER TO AVOID COSTLY REPLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR F-104 G). FURTHERMORE, VAN DER STOEL HAS HINTED STRONGLY THAT APPROPRIATE EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO DR. KISSINGER' S REMARKS ON BURDEN- SHARING IN APR 23 SPEECH SHOULD BE, IN ADDITION TO SOME KIND OF BOP RELIEF, IMPROVED EFFICIENCY OF EUROPEAN FORCES WITHIN EXISTING OR REDUCED LEVELS OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

4. AS SEEN FROM THE HAGUE, STUDY BEING PREPARED FOR UP- COMING DPC MINISTERIAL COULD HAVE SOME NEGATIVE EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DUTCH GOVT' S THINKING ON NATO DEFENSE STRATEGY, DUTCH CON- TRIBUTION TO CARRYING OUT THAT STRATEGY, AND ON WEAPONS PROCURE- MENT (PARTICULARLY FROM US SUPPLIERS). WHILE WE REALIZE THAT US HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING GREATER COOPERATION AMONG ALLIES IN DEVELOP- MENT AND PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCH COOPERATION MAY TURN OUT TO BE LIMITED SOLELY TO EURO- CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP COUNTRIES, AND CUT OUT US SUPPLIERS. WE ARE FURTHER CON- CERNED THAT NETHS, AND PERHAPS OTHERS, WILL SEIZE ON CONCEPTS OF RATIONALIZATION OR EFFICIENCY AS SUBSTITUTE FOR CARRYING OUT AD-70 IMPROVEMENTS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM USNATO ON ABOVE
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GDS
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